GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5246
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS DISEASE
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of people affected by Lymphatic Filariasis is increasing in the country during the last three years including the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any foreign assistance including that of WHO has been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to curb the said disease?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Government of India launched countrywide campaign of Elimination of Lymphatic filariasis (ELF) in 2004. Lymphatic filariasis is a chronic disease and has manifestations like lymphoedema (elephantiasis) and hydrocele. Govt. of India carried out house to house survey in collaboration with the endemic States/UTs for enlisting cases of Lymphoedema and hydrocele prior to Annual Mass Drug Administration with single dose of DEC (Diethylcarbamazine citrate) tablets since the year 2004 in order to provide them services for prevention of attacks of acute lymphangitis (high fever, swelling and pain in affected part of the body) and acute lymphadenitis (swelling of lymph glands, pain and fever) and surgical operation for hydrocele. The line listing of Lymphoedema and hydrocele cases as reported from filaria endemic States is being updated every year as the community tries to hide if they are affected with Lymphoedema or Hydrocele and repeated persuasion is required.

The State-wise list of Lymphoedema and Hydrocoele cases reported by the States is attached as Annexure.

(c) & (d) The assistance received from WHO was in terms of supply of limited quantity of Albendazole tablets for co-administration along with the DEC tablets in Tamil Nadu and Kerala to the population living at the risk of Lymphatic filariasis excluding children below 2 years, pregnant women and seriously ill persons.

WHO has supplied about 61 million tablets of Albendazole (400 mg. each) during the year 2006-07 which were used during Mass Drug Administration-2007.

(e) For interruption of transmission of lymphatic filariasis, Govt. of India launched the campaign of annual mass drug administration with single dose of Diethylcarbamazine Citrate (DEC) tablets to the population living at the risk of lymphatic filariasis except children below 2 years, pregnant women and seriously ill persons. The coverage achieved in 2007 is about 81% in comparison to the coverage of about 73% in 2004.

In addition,Govt. of India has provided assistance to the States in terms of cash and antifilarial drugs for carrying out various preparatory activities like training, IEC, drug distribution,etc.

In order to provide relief to the chronic patients affected with lymphatic filariasis with manifestations of lymphoedema and hydrocele, the line-listing of such cases were initiated and the simple home based hygienic washing methods were demonstrated to maintain the foot hygiene for protection against secondary bectarial and fungal infections.